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The First Generation Student Initiative

Shea Atkins

Illinois Wesleyan University, satkins@iwu.edu

Deborah Halperin

Illinois Wesleyan University, dhalperi@iwu.edu

Pennie L. Gray

Illinois Wesleyan University, pgray1@iwu.edu

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The First Generation Initiative: How to Make IWU a FGCS Friendly Campus

By: Shea Atkins Supervised and Guided by: Dr.Pennie Gray and Dr. Deborah Halperin

Academic Capital: What is it and why do we need it?

Academic capital is a term created from the mixture of Cultural and Social Capital(3). These capitals explain the differences between FGCS and Non-FGCS. They explain the difference in knowledge that these students bring to higher education.

How does IWU stack up?

In a cross-examination of IWU’s most similar universities and colleges, peer and aspirant institutions, IWU fell into the minority of programming for FGCS. This is what we are trying to fix. Some of the best colleges for FGCS have dedicated programming for their students.

So, What are the best practices?

According to the written and chosen responses by FGCS at IWU the best choices moving forward are first gen awareness programs, financial aid, parental literacy, and mentoring.

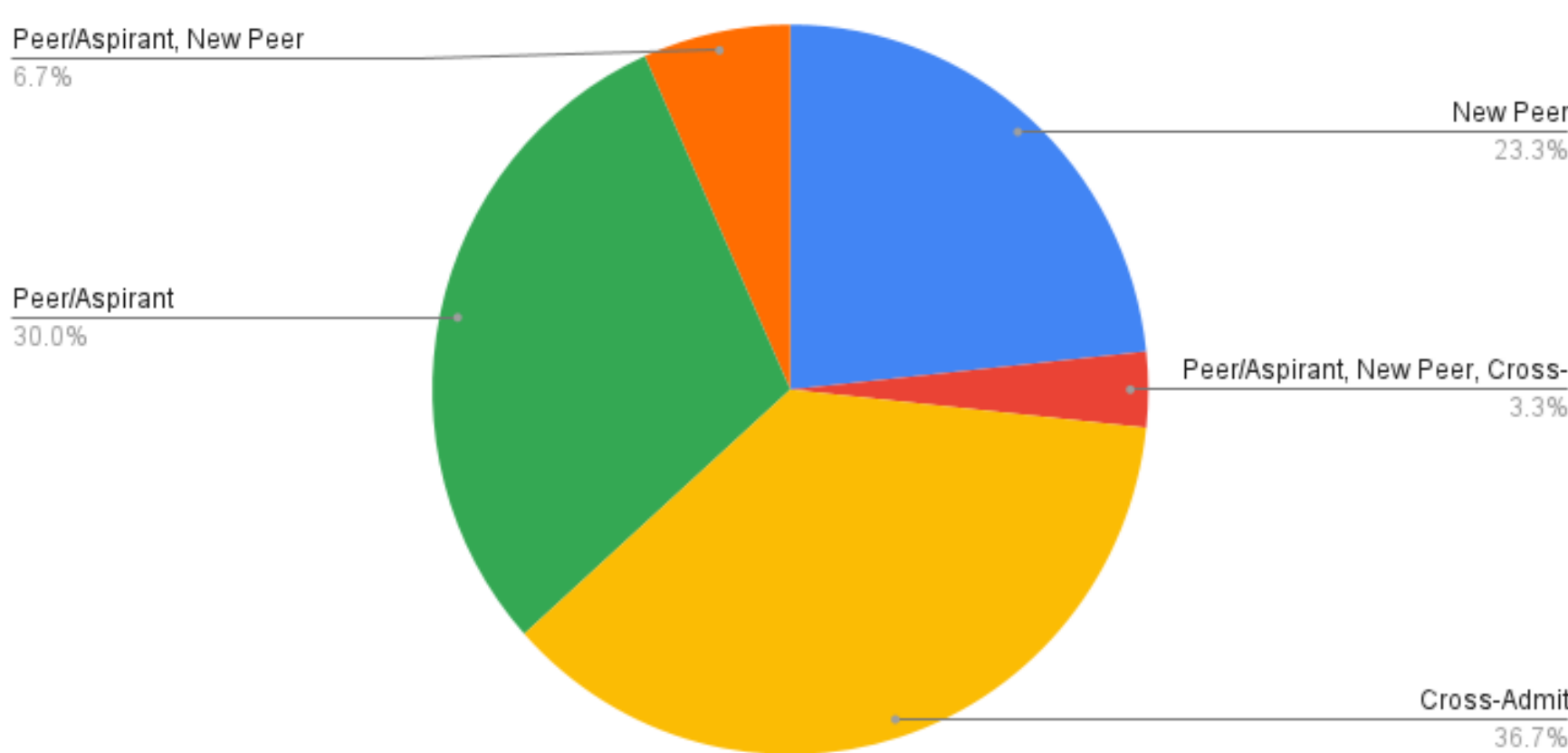
Conclusions:

While we can act on certain assumptions more research needs to be done in this field on a larger scale as student populations decrease with FGCS populations increasing.

Class	Enrolled	FGCS	% of FGCS
FR	316	101	31.96%
SO	325	121	37.23%
JR	386	112	29.02%
SR	450	103	22.89%
TOTALS	1477	437	29.59%
AVERAGES	369.25	109.25	30.27%

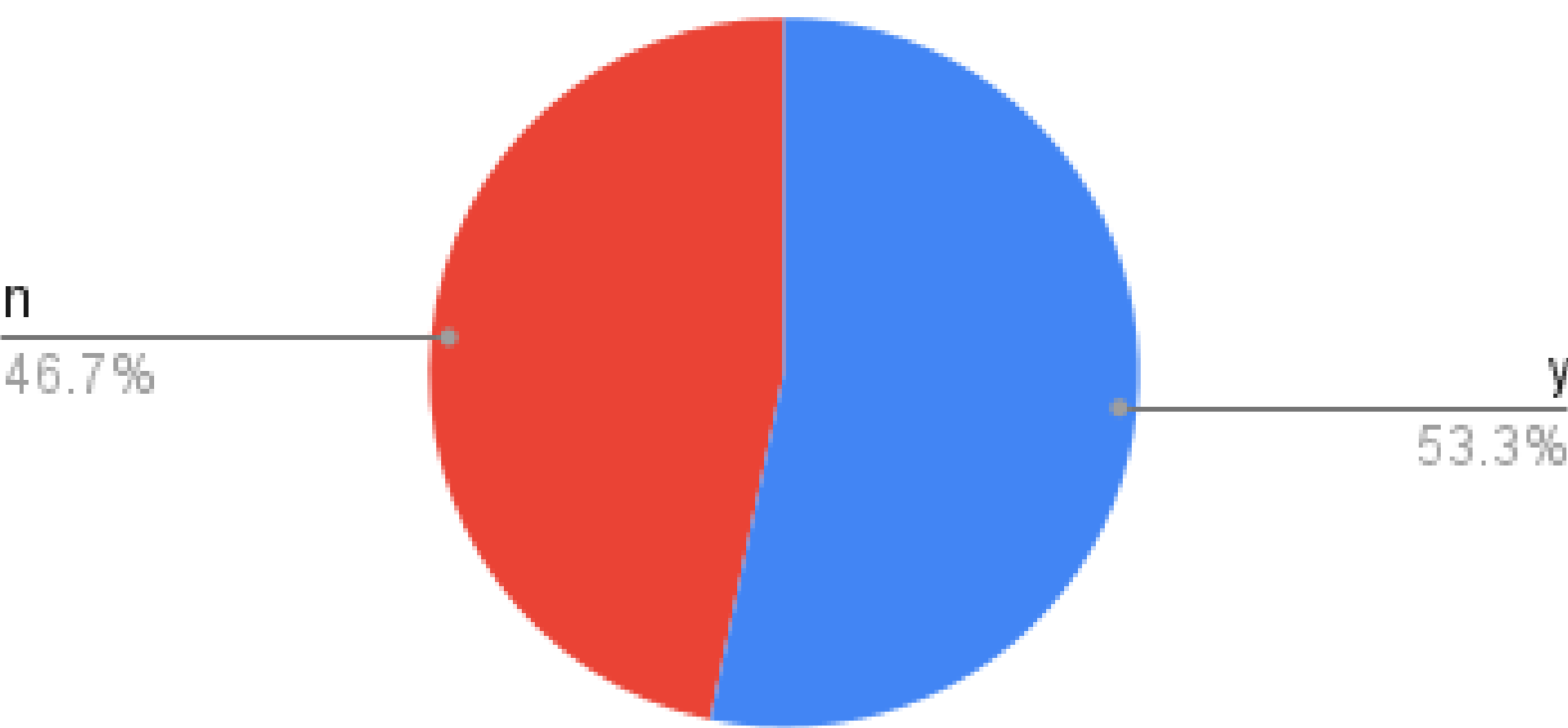
Classification of College/ Universities Relationship

Sample: 30 Colleges and Universities (peer/ aspirant)



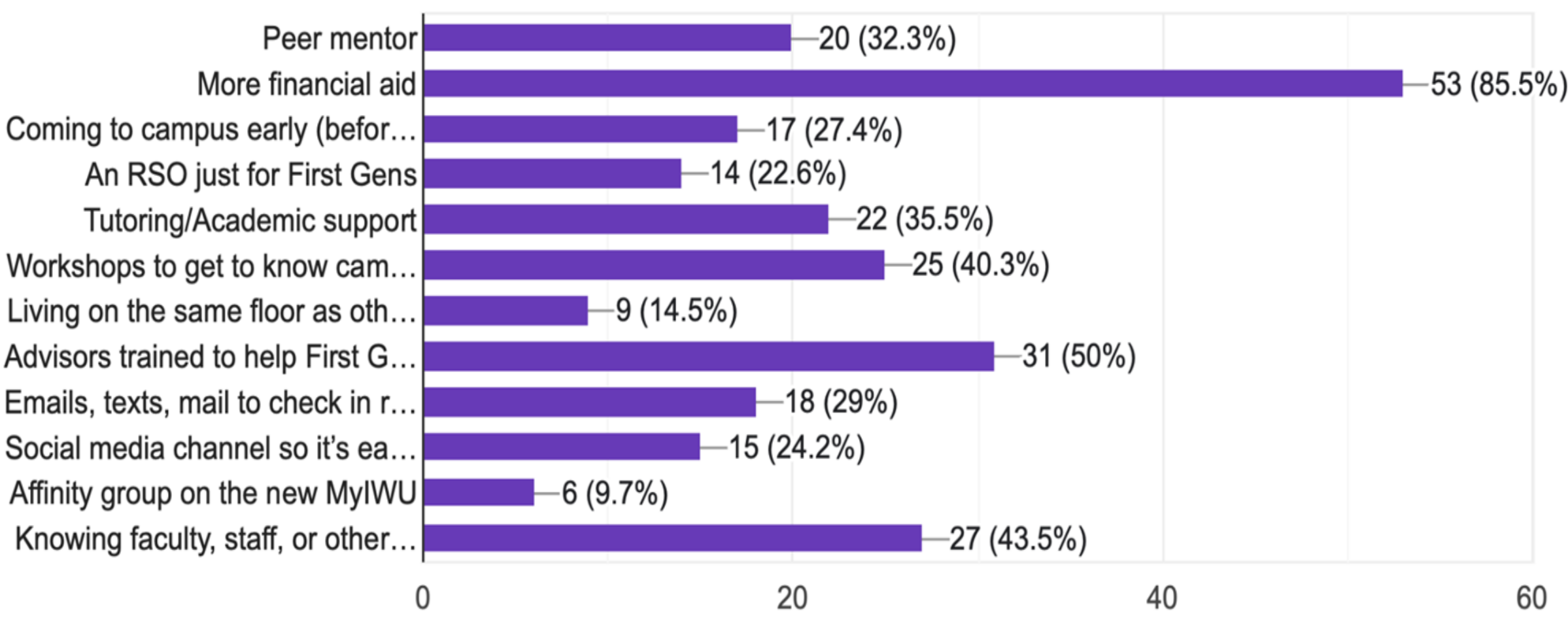
First Generation Dedicated Programming

Sample: 30 Colleges and Universities (peer/ aspirant)



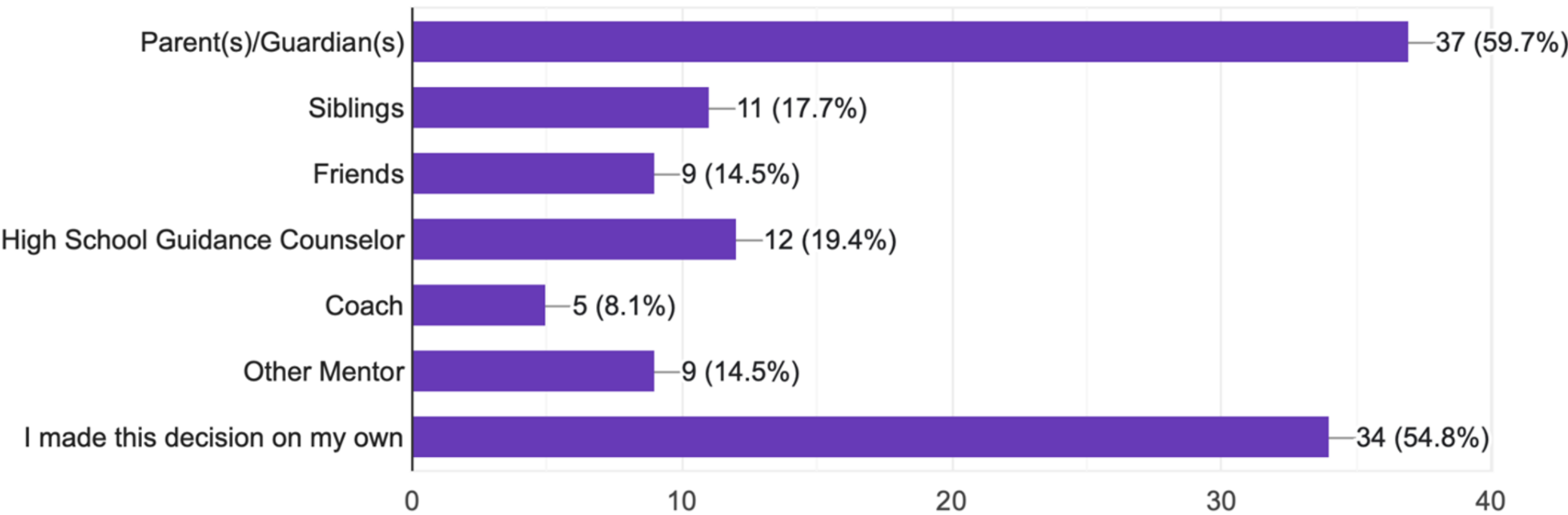
6. What helps/would help you be successful at IWU? (check all that apply)

62 responses



4. Who helped you to make the decision about where to go to college? Check all that apply

62 responses



Written Survey Responses



Key for Codes:

SCC - answer describes a deficit or need in the areas of social and cultural capital

MA- Answer describes a desire or need for either professional or peer mentors/advisors

FGA- Describes a need for more awareness around first generation resources and offerings on campus

FA- Describes a need for Financial Aid accessibility or more Aid in general

NVA- Non valid answer/ “none, N/A, other”

SCC/MA- An answer that blended SCC and MA

(1) Atkins, S. (n.d.). Peer and Aspirant University list with First Gen Programming.

(2) Atkins, S., & Halperin, D. (n.d.). First Generation Student Survey - Spring 2023.

(3) Ricks, J. R., & Warren, J. M. (2021). Transitioning to college: Experiences of successful first-generation college students. *Journal of Educational Research and Practice*, 11(1). <https://doi.org/10.5590/jerap.2021.11.1.01>